

## **REMARKS**

This Supplemental Amendment follows the Applicants' Amendment dated June 22, 2005 and also the telephone conference interview with Examiner Gloria Weeks and Examiner Scott Smith on June 28, 2005 which is gratefully acknowledged. The Office Action dated March 22, 2005 was discussed along with the references cited therein, including Wasterval, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,885,893) and Willis (U.S. Patent No. 4,821,816).

A copy of the Examiner's Interview Summary is also enclosed.

By way of the present amendment, independent Claims 1 and 12 have each been revised. In the process set forth in independent Claim 1, the sequential steps of the method have been recited including that the top mast section is transported to be substantially aligned lengthwise with the bottom mast section. This sequence facilitates and permits bringing the sections together on a trailer without need for a crane or other material handling device to manipulate the sections between horizontal and vertical.

Additionally, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the top and bottom mast sections are engaged and guided together in a final connecting orientation.

In summary, the combination of Wasterval, Jr. and Willis, taken together, does not achieve the limitations of the claims.

The apparatus of independent Claim 12 has been amended in similar fashion and clearly conveys the invention.

The remaining claims are dependent on independent Claims 1 and 12 are believed allowable for all the same reasons.

Finally, with respect to the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed by Applicants on May 23, 2005, Terrell (U.S. Patent No. 2,857,993) discloses a two-piece mast for a

derrick which is articulated about hinges between horizontal and vertical positions but is otherwise dissimilar.

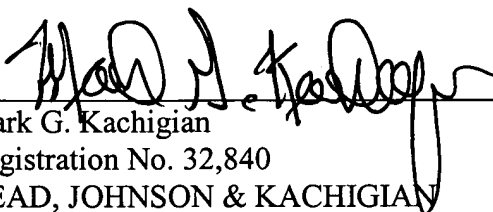
Busse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,021,978) discloses a two-piece mast assembly including male connector brackets 260 located on the ends of mast leg members which engage with female connector brackets 250 which include a pair of mast connector side plates 251 in spaced, parallel relationship to one another. While this arrangement assists in aligning the mast sections together, it does not incorporate the claimed critical elements of aligning the mast sections horizontally substantially length wise and raising the bottom mast section so that the mast sections are simultaneously engaged and guided together into a final connecting orientation. Moreover, Busse et al. is a telescopic mast assembly which differs in structure and operation from the two piece mast assembly of the present invention.

Brittain et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 203/0051915) discloses an articulating mast which folds lengthwise for storage and transportation but is otherwise dissimilar.

In summary, the forgoing additional references are no more pertinent than those already discussed and considered.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, a telephone conference interview with the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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